

10/089545  
JC13 Rec'd PCT/PTO 01 APR 2002

**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**Q69266**

**IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)**

In re application of

Hiroo MATSUNAGA

Appln. No.:

Confirmation No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed: April 1, 2002

Examiner:

For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING PNEUMATIC TIRE  
AND VULCANIZATION MOLD USED THEREFOR

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

## BOX PCT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Amend page 1 of the specification by inserting the following before the first line thereof:**

--This is a National Stage entry under 35 U.S.C. §371 of International Patent Application No. PCT/JP01/06703 filed August 3, 2001, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

3. *(Amended)* The method according to claim 1, wherein the edge of the dividing face between the adjoining side ring pieces located at the side of the tire shaping face is positioned in a place corresponding to a corner part of the depressing portion forming the bead guard.

4. *(Amended)* The method according to claim 1, wherein the edge of the dividing face between the adjoining side ring pieces located at the side of the tire shaping face is positioned in a place corresponding to a deeper corner part among plural corner parts of the depressing portion forming the bead guard.

5. *(Amended)* The method according to claim 1, wherein the edge of the dividing face between the adjoining side ring pieces located at the side of the tire shaping face is positioned in a place corresponding to an outward corner part in the radial direction at a side delaying the enlarging deformation of the uncured tire among corner parts adjoining to each other inward and outward in the radial direction in the depressing portion forming the bead guard.

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8. (*Amended*) A vulcanization split type mold according to claim 6, wherein the edge of the dividing face between the adjoining side ring pieces disposed in the depressing portion and located at the side of the tire shaping face is positioned in a corner part at the bottom of the depressing portion.

9. (*Amended*) A vulcanization split type mold according to claim 6, wherein the edge of the dividing face between the adjoining side ring pieces forming the depressing portion and located at the side of the tire shaping face is positioned in a deepest bottom corner part among plural bottom corner parts of the depressing portion.

10. (*Amended*) A vulcanization split type mold according to claim 6, wherein the edge of the dividing face between the adjoining side ring pieces forming the depressing portion and located at the side of the tire shaping face is positioned in an outward bottom corner part in the radial direction among plural bottom corner parts separated away from each other in the radial direction of the depressing portion.

11. (*Amended*) A vulcanization split type mold according to claim 6, wherein each of the side rings is divided into three or more side ring pieces.

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12. (*Amended*) A vulcanization split type mold according to claim 6, wherein a chamfered portion specifying a position of the edge of the dividing face located at the side of the tire shaping face is formed in at least one of the mutually adjoining side ring pieces.

13. (*Amended*) A vulcanization split type mold according to claim 6, wherein the side ring pieces in each of the side rings have a structure capable of assembling and disassembling them and are integrally united with each other in a vulcanization work inclusive of opening and closing of a vulcanizing machine provided with the mold.

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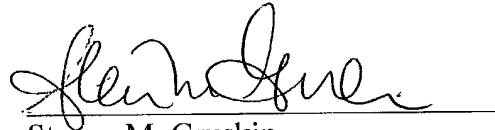
**REMARKS**

Claims 1-13 are all of the claims currently pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 3-5 and 8-13 are amended to delete the multiple dependent claim format and avoid the concomitant filing fee therefor.

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested, and favorable examination in due course is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees due (except the Issue Fee) to maintain the pendency hereof to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 1, 2002

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**APPENDIX**

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**The specification is changed as follows:**

**Page 1, add the following before the first line thereof:**

--This is a National Stage entry under 35 U.S.C. §371 of International Patent Application No. PCT/JP01/06703 filed August 3, 2001, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

3. (*Amended*) The method according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the edge of the dividing face between the adjoining side ring pieces located at the side of the tire shaping face is positioned in a place corresponding to a corner part of the depressing portion forming the bead guard.

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4. (*Amended*) The method according to [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the edge of the dividing face between the adjoining side ring pieces located at the side of the tire shaping face is positioned in a place corresponding to a deeper corner part among plural corner parts of the depressing portion forming the bead guard.

5. (*Amended*) The method according to [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein the edge of the dividing face between the adjoining side ring pieces located at the side of the tire shaping face is positioned in a place corresponding to an outward corner part in the radial direction at a side delaying the enlarging deformation of the uncured tire among corner parts adjoining to each other inward and outward in the radial direction in the depressing portion forming the bead guard.

8. (*Amended*) A vulcanization split type mold according to claim 6 [or 7], wherein the edge of the dividing face between the adjoining side ring pieces disposed in the depressing portion and located at the side of the tire shaping face is positioned in a corner part at the bottom of the depressing portion.

9. (*Amended*) A vulcanization split type mold according to [any one of claims 6 to 8] claim 6, wherein the edge of the dividing face between the adjoining side ring pieces forming the depressing portion and located at the side of the tire shaping face is positioned in a deepest bottom corner part among plural bottom corner parts of the depressing portion.

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10. (*Amended*) A vulcanization split type mold according to [any one of claims 6 to 8] claim 6, wherein the edge of the dividing face between the adjoining side ring pieces forming the depressing portion and located at the side of the tire shaping face is positioned in an outward bottom corner part in the radial direction among plural bottom corner parts separated away from each other in the radial direction of the depressing portion.

11. (*Amended*) A vulcanization split type mold according to [any one of claims 6 to 10] claim 6, wherein each of the side rings is divided into three or more side ring pieces.

12. (*Amended*) A vulcanization split type mold according to [any one of claims 6 to 11] claim 6, wherein a chamfered portion specifying a position of the edge of the dividing face located at the side of the tire shaping face is formed in at least one of the mutually adjoining side ring pieces.

13. (*Amended*) A vulcanization split type mold according to [any one of claims 6 to 12] claim 6, wherein the side ring pieces in each of the side rings have a structure capable of assembling and disassembling them and are integrally united with each other in a vulcanization work inclusive of opening and closing of a vulcanizing machine provided with the mold.